The Journey of Journalism and History: How We Got Here  
FYSEM-UA 772   Fall, 2020  
Instructor: Charles J. Glasser, Jr., Esq.  
Mo 12:30PM-3:00PM  
Location: SILV Room - 101A Loc: Washington Square

**Theme and goals:** This course is more than a survey of important journalism of the 20th century. Reading and discussion intensive, we will explore how significant historical events affected journalism, and how journalism helps shape the occurrence of those events. If as they say, that journalism is “the first draft of history” then looking at significant cultural and political moments through the eyes of contemporaneous journalism sheds new insight on who we are as a nation for better or worse. Historical events and movements to be discussed include the robber barons of the Gilded Age and their antagonists the Muckrakers; the early Anarchist and labor movement; the coverage of World Wars and government censorship; the press’ role in the civil rights movement and the Golden Age of investigative journalism. We will read and discuss the work of a wide range of media notables including Ida Tarbell, Lincoln Steffens, H. L. Mencken, Walter Winchell, Edward R. Murrow, Sy Hirsch, Woodward and Bernstein, Tom Wolfe, Matt Taibbi, and Glenn Greenwald among others.

**Grading Formula:** An early mid-term paper in essay form of three short answers, used primarily for diagnostic purposes (20%); Classroom participation and presentation (30%); and a Final Exam Essay of 3000 to 5000 words, topic selection by assignment or approved request of students (50%).

Students are expected to read required material **before** that class in which that material will be discussed. Aside from required reading (listed below) a custom designed course pack will also be available for download for specific readings throughout the semester.  
**Link:** Google Drive Folder “Journey of Journalism” at:  
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IgT0no_UgK3fyNsHpHohiQnC66FuEzLa?usp=sharing  
(Each class has a separate sub-folder within).  

**Class 1: Sept. 14**  
- Introduction; Policies and Procedures;  
- “Ten Events That Shaped Our World”  
- “What is a Narrative”?  
- “The Mission of Journalism”  

**Reading:** Introduction in “Stories That Changed America”  
Review Video Clips and reading material in Google Drive Folder “Class 1”  

**Research Assignment:** Make a list of the five news stories in your lifetime that left the most impression on you.
Class 2: Sept. 21
- Turn of the Century: Setting the Stage
- Peak Industrial Revolution: Robber Barons and the Gilded Age
- Birth of the Expose: Labor Rights, Public Health

Reading: All chapters and excerpts from Ida Mae Tarbell and Upton Sinclair (“Stories That Changed America”) 
Review all video clips and reading material in Google Drive Folder “Class 2”

Class 3: Sept. 28
- World War I and Censorship
- The Anarchist’s Moment and The Palmer Raids
- Muckraking Continues: Public Interest Journalism

Reading: Lincoln Steffens and “The Shame of the Cities” (“Stories That Changed America”) 
Review Articles and Clips in Google Drive Folder “Class 3”

Class 4: October 5
- The Rise of the Curmudgeon (Mencken; Pegler)
- The Black Press Emerges

Reading: Articles in Google Drive Folder “History-Session 4”

Class 5: October 12
- Radio Reigns Supreme
- Fireside Chats and Political Messaging: The First Media Stars
- Breaking News changes the dynamic: “Push vs. Pull”

Reading: Review Articles and Clips in Google Drive Folder “History-Session 5”

Research Assignment: Make a list of the five “Breaking News” stories in your lifetime that left the most impression on you.

Class 6: October 19
MID-TERM EXAM

Class 7: October 26
- REVIEW OF MID-TERM
- War: Propaganda and its Effect
- The Post-War Narrative and “Red Channels” and the Hollywood Ten
- Army/McCarthy Hearings

Reading: J. William Fulbright and “The Pentagon Propaganda Machine” (“Stories That Changed America”) 
Review Articles and Clips in Google Drive Folder “History-Session 7”
Class 8: November 2

- Early Television and Investigative Journalism
- In-Class viewing: “Harvest of Shame” (Edward R. Murrow, CBS)
- “MacArthur Resigns”
- “Nixon and Checkers”

Reading: Review Articles and Clips in Google Drive Folder “History-Session 8”

Class 9: November 9

- Television Comes Alive: R.I.P. Afternoon Papers
- “JFK/Nixon Debate”
- “JFK Assassination”
- In-Class viewing: The Civil Rights Movement: “I Have a Dream” and the “March to Selma at the Pettis Bridge”

Reading: Michael Harrington and “The Other America: Poverty in the United States” (“Stories That Changed America”) Review Articles and Clips in Google Drive Folder “History-Session 9”

Class 10: November 16

- The Turbulent 60’s: “Wild in The Streets”
- Vietnam
- RFK, MLK murdered, the Ghetto Burns
- “Something in the Air”: Chicago 1968 and the “Silent Majority” Pushback

Reading: Seymour Hirsch and “Excerpts from My Lai” (“Stories That Changed America”) Review Articles and Clips in Google Drive Folder “History-Session 10”

Class 11: November 23

- Counterculture Re-emerges (“The Realist,” “Fuck You”, “Ramparts”)
- Women’s Media Reimagined: Ms. Magazine

Reading: Betty Friedan and “The Feminine Mystique” (“Stories That Changed America”) Review Articles and Clips in Google Drive Folder “History-Session 11” Begin reading “Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas”

Class 12: November 30

- Peak of Investigative Journalism
- Kate Graham and The Pentagon Papers
- Watergate
- “New Journalism”: Tom Wolfe and Hunter S. Thompson
- Advent of Digital Media and the “Political Pundit Class”
- “Citizen Journalists” and “WikiLeaks”
Reading: Complete reading “Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas”, Review Articles and Clips in Google Drive Folders “History-Session 12 and 13”,

Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, “GOP Security Aide Among Five Arrested” (“Stories That Changed America”)

Class 13: December 7: (LAST CLASS)
• CLASS REVIEW/PIZZA LUNCH

Class 14: Dec 14:
• FINAL EXAM DUE TBA

Required Reading:
“Stories that Changed America: Muckrakers of the 20th Century”, Carl Jensen
Publisher: Seven Stories Press; Revised edition (October 1, 2002)
ISBN-10: 158322517X

“Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas”, Hunter S. Thompson
Publisher: Vintage; 2nd edition
ISBN-10: 9780679785897
ASIN: 0679785892

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(Each class has a separate sub-folder within).

Suggested Reading:
“The Powers That Be”, David Halberstam
Publisher: Alfred A. Knopf; Knopf edition (1979)
ASIN: B004SHW5OA

“The Nightmare Years, 1930-1940”, William Shirer
Publisher: Little, Brown (1984)
ASIN: B000UE09U2

Disability Disclosure Statement: Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. The Moses Center website is www.nyu.edu/csd. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.
Contacting Professor Glasser: My preferred email is charlesglasseresq@gmail.com. No question is too small, and I will usually respond within a few hours. If you wish to have a one-on-one conversation for any reason at all, I will accommodate your request, and all conversations will be held in strictest confidence if you wish. In emergencies, my mobile phone is 973-666-6270.